

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/823,641

Examiner

K. Feggins

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-3 is the inclusion of method steps of retransfer printing that includes peeling off the part of the transfer layer adhered to the peel functional layer from the intermediate transfer film; re-transferring the transfer layer to the printing medium by the thermal transfer method, and resulting in printing the image on the printing medium, the retransfer printing method is further characterized in that an amount of energy, which is supplied to the thermal head so as to heat the thermal head, is changed in accordance with a location of the thermal head in the peeling area and its neighboring area during the step of peeling. It is these steps found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 4-5 is the inclusion of the limitations of a printing apparatus that includes peeling off the part of the transfer layer adhered to the peel functional layer from the intermediate transfer film; re-transferring the transfer layer to the printing medium by the thermal transfer method, and resulting in printing the image on the printing medium, wherein an amount of energy, which is supplied to the thermal head so as to heat the thermal head, is changed in accordance with a location of the thermal head in the peeling area and its neighboring area during the step of peeling, the printing apparatus comprising a control section for controlling the amount of energy supplied to the thermal head by a predetermined control pattern during the step of peeling. It is these limitations found in the claims, as they are claimed in the

combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Odaka et al. (US 6,803,936 B2) disclose an image formation method and a thermal transfer sheet for use in an image formation method utilizing an intermediate transfer recording medium. Araki et al. (US 6,909,446 B2) disclose a printing device having a supply and a take up shaft for conveying an intermediate transfer medium having a transferring layer. Imai et al. (US 5,447,902) disclose a thermal printer that forms an image into a printing layer by heating a color layer and then transferring the printing layer onto an image received sheet by pressure or heat. Suzuki et al. (US 6,894,710 B2) disclose a card recording apparatus that transports a card to an information recording section the transports it to a second heating section and image formed on an intermediate record medium and retransferred to the card.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communication With The USPTO

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to K. Feggins whose telephone number is 571-272-2254. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talbott Dave can be reached on 571-272-1934. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


K. FEGGINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER 9/05